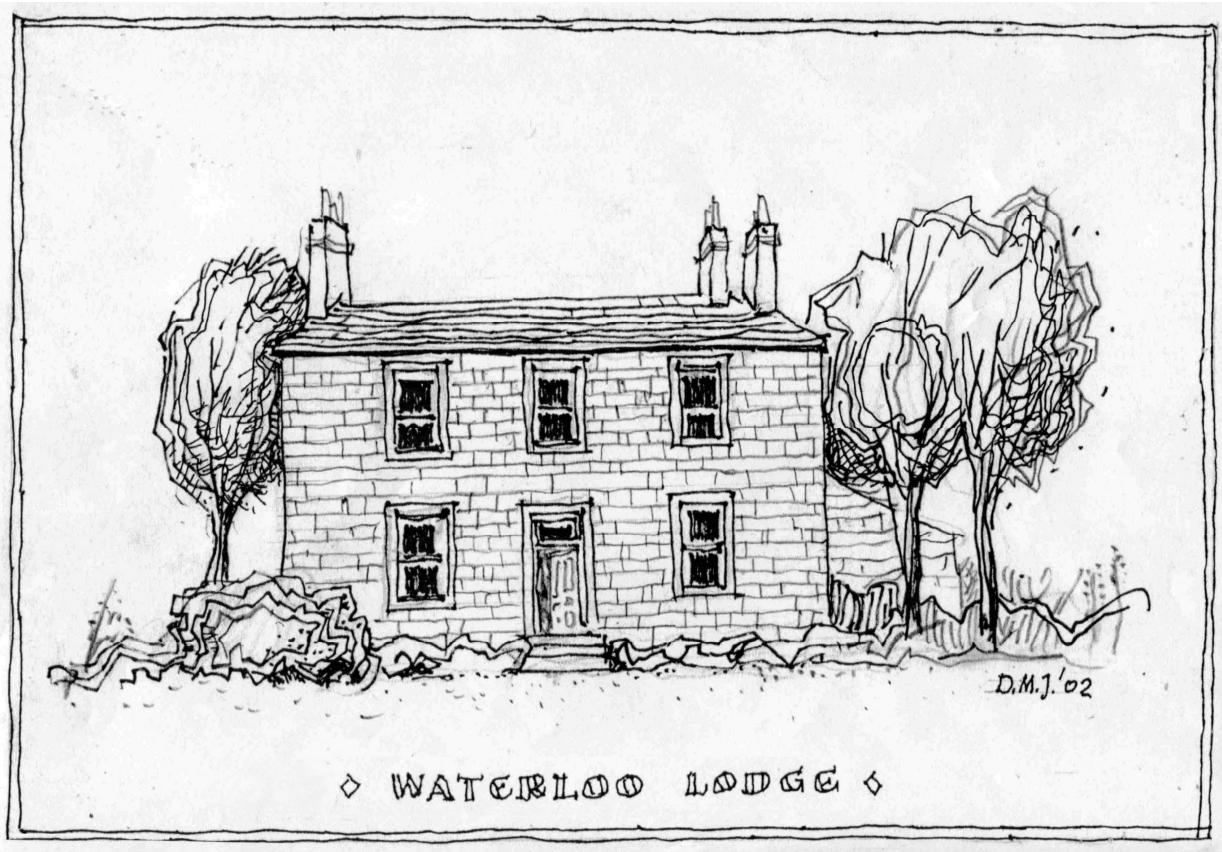
WATERLOO LODGE

200 years of history



Elizabeth Bee and Michael Meadowcroft

Elizabeth Bee and Michael Meadowcroft
Waterloo Lodge, 72 Waterloo Lane, Bramley, LS13 2JF

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With thanks to the research team at A House Through Time for their additional information.

For more information do contact us at the above address or email
Michael@beemeadowcroft.uk

WATERLOO LODGE

Many of Bramley's fine old houses have been demolished over recent decades but Waterloo Lodge survived to celebrate its 200th anniversary in 2020. As an impressive Georgian house it is alone in this part of Bramley and the only other individual building of distinction is Lincroft House which is a positive youngster, dating from only the mid 1840s.

Origins – early 1800s

Before Waterloo Lodge was built the area north of Town Street was largely farmland and the mills and tanneries were only just arriving. The Public Record Office map of Bramley in 1811 simply shows numbered fields, sometimes with names. Not surprisingly, given that the famous battle was in 1815, there is no Waterloo Lane. It is interesting that even now many of the small roads around Waterloo Lodge and Lincroft House follow the boundaries of the earlier fields.

Map of Bramley c. 1811

Waterloo Lodge was originally the mill house for Waterloo Mills - always plural because there was more than one building on the site, probably for different processes in the production of cloth - and there is evidence that the house originally had a role in the management of the mills, including the payment of employees. A key document for Bramley local history is the diary of Joseph Rogerson who lived at Prospect House on Broad Lane, in the top left corner of the accompanying map. Rogerson was himself a wool man and his brother, John, dealt in Bramley stone. He records on 19 October 1813 that "it is said Jn° Haley staked a millstead out in LingCroft yesterday," and this is the first reference to what became Waterloo Mills.

The site of Waterloo Lodge is the field numbered 448 in the above map – Foot Gate Close.

The John Haley referred to was a member of the most powerful family of the day in Bramley. The Haleys owned a great deal of property, both residential and industrial, in the village and over the years their financial status swung from wealth to bankruptcy and back again! Haley's Yard still exists towards the end of Upper Town Street next to Bramley Park and it is the only example remaining of the many yards that abutted on to the whole length of Town Street. The Haley family played a role in Leeds civic life up to and during the 1930s when William Haley was a city councillor for Bramley through to the Second World War.

The victory over Napoleon in 1815 at the Belgian town of Waterloo was a momentous occasion and many British streets and buildings commemorate the battle. Haley was caught up in the celebrations hence Waterloo Lane, Waterloo Mills and Waterloo Lodge – as were also Thomas Stead, Isaac Haley and John Barker who in 1823 built Wellington Mills nearby, on Broad Lane.

Mark Smith

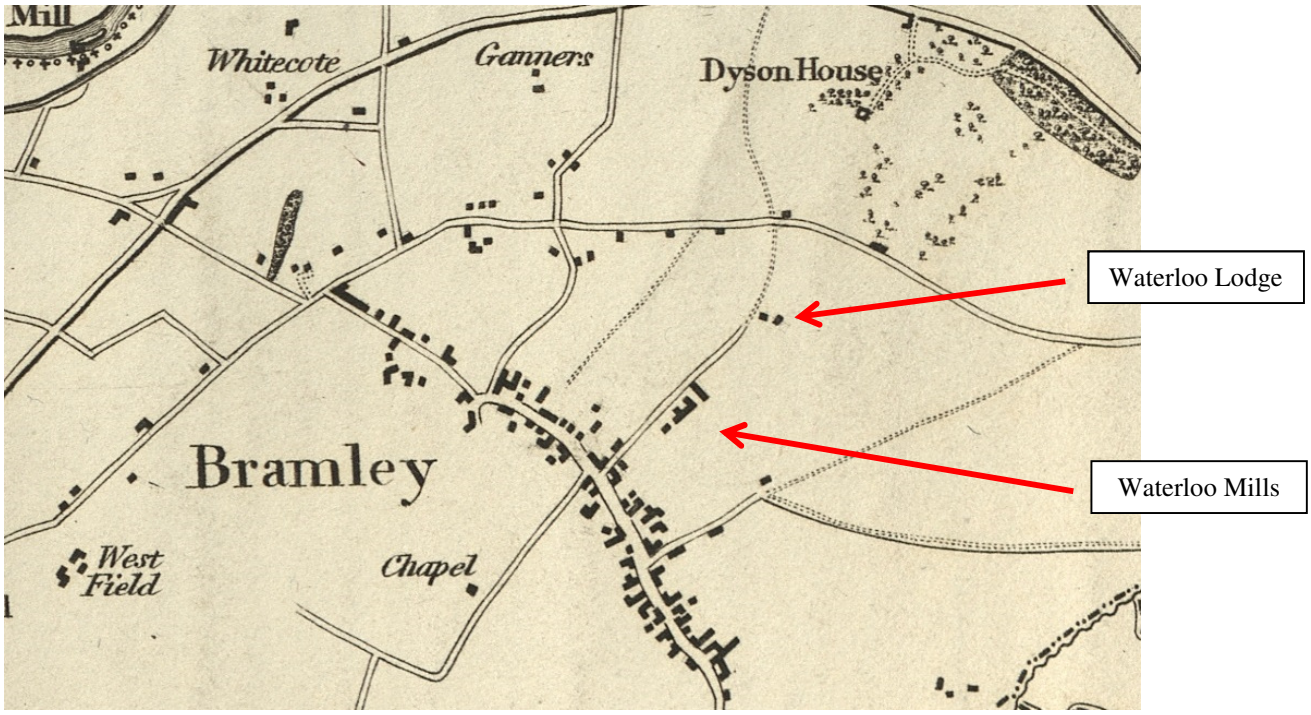
The first people to occupy Waterloo Lodge, in 1821, were John's daughter Mary and son-in-law, Mark Smith. They had married in 1813 and moved into the house with their three surviving children, with two more being born in the following two years.

The first separate reference to what became Waterloo Lodge dates to a deed of 3rd February 1818 between the owners of arable land amounting to "3 acres, 3 roods" at Little Clark Close and Mark Smith for the latter to have "tenure or occupation" and to have the right to "pass and repass on foot, on horseback etc for all purposes and on all occasions .... along the new road at the south end of said close and from the other new road .... leading from there into the Town Street of Bramley."

The construction of the house clearly took a little time as the first reference to "Waterloo Lodge" showing its location, plus outbuildings, comes in a map of 1821, for which the surveying would have been done during the previous year. Why it was called a "Lodge" is a puzzle given that the name usually indicates a smaller building serving a much larger main house and this is clearly not the case in this instance.

On the same map Waterloo Lane is shown as wide at the Town Street end and narrowing to the original footpath north of the house. The fact that the lane ended at the house is the reason for the drive and gate being at an angle to the present thoroughfare. At the time the horse drawn carriages went down the side of the house and then turned round. The house itself faced east and the side at the end of the present drive and the yard is, in fact, the rear. The house has two main storeys on its south side but three in the north west quarter, with corresponding lower ceilings. This arrangement, plus the cellar, was to provide for the servants' living and working accommodation.

In 1823 a complete valuation survey was undertaken of the township of Bramley in order to assess each property's liability for rates. The survey lists "House, back part, Cellar, Factory of 3 Stories, Stable, Mistall, Garden and Yard etc, with cottage and Cellar plus Foot Gate Close as covering 3 acres and 3 roods approx." Note that the original "Little Clark Close" now apparently has the alternative name "Foot Gate Close". As a consequence of the survey the Bramley Rate Book of the same year shows "house, shop and land" valued at £12 and 15 shillings - over £1500 in today's money.



1821 map showing Waterloo Lane leading only as far as Waterloo Lodge, being a footpath after that

Mark Smith, aged 27, a wool stapler from Adel, was the son-in-law of John Haley and this, plus the two of them being Methodists may well be what brought them into the original partnership for the mills (Mark Smith rented Waterloo Mills from John Haley). But in 1829 Mary Smith died and in 1830, after almost ten years of occupation, Mark Smith sold the house to his brother-in-law Joseph Haley. The deed of sale lists "arable meadow or pasture ground situated and being in Bramley aforesaid commonly Little Clarke close .... 3 acres, 3 roods .... and now or late in the occupation of the said Mark Smith and also all that messuage or dwellinghouse with the Warehouse, Weaving Shop, Stable and other outbuildings lately erected by the said Mark Smith upon some part of the said parcel of land."

Mark Smith remarried, gave up the wool trade and subsequently became the master of the Bramley workhouse (then on Town Street), but in 1860 he was charged with drunkenness and having fathered a child by one of the inmates. Following a tribunal held in front of the Poor Law Board to determine the facts, he was asked to resign. He next appears in 1861 as a grocer in Farsley, dies in 1862 and is buried in St Peter's Bramley graveyard.

The Haleys

Joseph Haley (son of John, brother of Mary, Mark Smith's first wife) moved in with his wife Jane. Joseph was a cloth manufacturer working with his father, and the records of their business tell an action-packed story.

Patriarch John was well known in the area for his liberal views. He supported the protesters at Peterloo (hosting a meeting back in 1819 to raise funds for the families of those killed in the massacre) and was a keen supporter of Universal Suffrage (he threw a huge party with 'beef for over a thousand families' when the 1832 Reform Act was passed). He agreed to pay higher wages to his weavers in 1831, and urged other employers to do the same. But in 1834 there is a slump in the cloth trade. Wages were cut in mills across the country, including at Waterloo Mills, and the numbers of unemployed were growing. In April of that year, workers went on strike at Haleys' mill. Tensions ran high, and when four young girls crossed the picket line, violence broke out.

These were lean years for millworkers, and ten years later, another economic crisis prompted the Plug Plot Riots of 1842 (a general strike which began with the miners of Staffordshire and spread to the miners and millworkers of Yorkshire and Lancashire). A band of rioters travelled through Leeds, reportedly looting shops (stealing bread and bacon) and pubs (forcing a publican to give them 50 gallons of ale). Eventually the protesters came to Haleys' mill and 22 arrests were made. The local paper described the town as 'in a very excited state'. The crisis in the cloth trade had huge repercussions for workers, and made a deep impact on the Haley family finances too.

Joseph Haley, his wife, Jane, their four surviving children, Alfred, John Cyrus, Louisa and Lavinia, plus one servant, lived in Waterloo Lodge until the mid 1850s. The house, including four cottages to the north were sold due to insolvency in 1848 to the Yorkshire Banking Company (which eventually, in 1901, became part of the Midland Bank). The Haley family continued at Waterloo Lodge as tenants of the bank until the link between the mills and the house was severed by the bank selling the house in 1855. By the 1850s the mills were also up for sale.

Joseph Haley and his family left Leeds and went to London where in 1861 his occupation is given as Secretary, and the family are living in Battersea. Joseph and Jane remained in London until the late 1870s when they returned to Yorkshire, not to Leeds, but to Bradford. Jane died there in 1880, followed by Joseph a year later. Both are buried in the Methodist Church cemetery in Bramley. Their gravestones, along with father John and other members of the family are still visible.

Cyrus Haley, the arsonist

John Cyrus, second son of Joseph Haley was not destined for greatness. Having gone to London with the family he soon joined the army - a good profession for a well-to-

do young man, with the possibility for travel and a well-defined path to promotion. In 1859 Cyrus was in India, where the first of several very big scandals enveloped him.

Serving as a sergeant in the Sappers and Miners, Cyrus embezzled money from a fellow officer. The sum was vast, nearly £700 in rupees, and Cyrus was court martialled in Ahmedabad and sentenced to four years penal servitude. When released without a penny to his name, he worked for a spell on the Indian railways, earning enough to pay for his passage back to Britain, where he married a professional singer called Emily Haigh in 1865.

He soon embarked on a new mining venture with his father Joseph. They named their business after a competing company (hoping to trade on its good reputation), but when the company sued them, the Haleys lost and the business went bust (again!). Cyrus absconded and further criminal activity occurred until he and Emily decide to quit Britain, and emigrate to New Zealand in 1870. This was a place where entrepreneurs were making fortunes in gold prospecting, industry and business, but John Cyrus and Emily evidently wanted to make a name in the arts scene, because in 1872, Emily gave the first of a series of concerts in Auckland under the stage name 'Madame Halle'. However, newspaper sources reported that Emily had a drink problem which affected her ability to sing, and her erratic performance attracted scathing reviews from critics.

In revenge for this humiliation, Cyrus set fire to the concert hall. This is just part of a huge campaign of arson, with Cyrus rampaging around Auckland, burning down his own restaurant, a ship, a farm and a kerosene store. Newspapers across the world picked up the story of Cyrus' 'extraordinary career of crime' (one can only imagine the feelings of the upright Haley family back in the UK). In the reports, he's said to be a member of the communist Internationale, and have '50 followers', but there is no evidence to suggest that he had any political convictions, or that this was more than feverish speculation.

Cyrus was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment, but less than four years later, in 1875 while in prison in Dunedin, Cyrus escaped while he was working on a chain gang, (the last of several attempts) only to be shot dead by a prison officer.

Emily remarried and had three more children. By the time she was in her late sixties, she had become known as a nuisance for her begging and alcoholic behaviour in the South Dunedin community. She was sent to Pakatoa Island, (a rehabilitation centre run for women by the Salvation Army) several times and died there 1912. (more information from www.wikitree.com/wiki/Haigh-294)

1855 - John Westmoreland Ellis

John Westmoreland Ellis who purchased Waterloo lodge in 1855, was described as a "Gentleman", i.e. he lived on his investments and did not have to work! John was from a devout Quaker family from Armley (the family lived at 'Moor'). His father Isaac was a maltster and John a wool merchant before they both acquired enough wealth to call themselves Gentlemen.

John moved in with his wife, Ellen (Helen) and their 5 year old son, Henry. In 1856 John won an election to the town council from the Bramley ward, on a ticket of opposition to a new tax which would have curbed pollution from the mills. The authorities were trying to protect the purity of the air in the new suburbs for the middle and working classes, who lived and worked in the smog of Leeds. But these changes were bitterly opposed by the local mill owners and dyers whom John represented. The newspapers reported that John made a fiery speech against the proposed pollution tax in Bramley. However he died only a month later aged just 31. He is buried in Bramley St Peters churchyard; his grave is an impressive monument.

His widow, Ellen, continued to own the house until her death in 1881, and their son, Henry, remained as owner until his death in 1916. In the years immediately following her husband's death the house was rented out and Ellen and Henry lived with her brother in Kensington Terrace, Hyde Park.

1861-65 William Yewdall

By 1861, William Yewdall, the 24-year-old heir to a woollen manufacturing firm, moved into Waterloo Lodge as a tenant of the Ellis's, along with his housekeeper, Eliza Trickett, and 13-year-old maid, Maria Edmonson. The census lists him as "employing 250 men, women and children" yet he struggled to manage them and was liquidated four times. His family bought Waterloo Mills and also ran Calverley Bridge Mills, but later went into bankruptcy.

William was the eldest son and heir of David Yewdall, a highly successful textile manufacturer whose business included several mills, employing over 1,000 workers. David had built up the family business in previous decades, and greatly benefited when a new section of the Leeds and Liverpool canal was opened to take Yorkshire textiles across the Pennines to Liverpool.

William moved into Waterloo Lodge to run Waterloo Mills and in late 1861 he married Jane Adamson, an innkeeper's daughter. In 1862 Jane gave birth to a daughter, Ellen, and in 1864 to a son called William Jr, but by the time of the next census, in 1871, William, Jane and their five children had moved away to a terraced house in suburban Leeds. With a growing family why did the Yewdalls downsize? What happened?

In 1869 the newspapers show that William's business was in trouble. In April a serious fire broke out at Waterloo Mill. As the flames began to take hold, William

Rawnsley, the manager, “rashly ventured inside the building, and proceeded to the top storey”. Then, the “heavy, iron roof immediately fell in with a tremendous crash, and it was naturally supposed that [William] was buried in the ruins”. But, incredibly, William had a “miraculous” escape when “he was [later] found hanging by the feet from one of the rafters” with only minor burns.

Despite William Rawnsley’s efforts to stop the blaze, in the aftermath of the fire the damage to William’s stock was estimated at £125. It’s not clear what happened next, but by November 1872, the newspapers were reporting that William had debts of £50,000 – a colossal amount for the 1870s. Within weeks he was forced to sell off his stock and machinery at Harcourt and Pool mills in order to pay off his creditors. At one of William’s mills, he is forced to sell “the entire fittings and appendages of a recently and thoroughly equipped woollen concern”.

William continued to lose money in various different ways – in March 1873, he was declared bankrupt and then, in July, he lost a case against William Thompson, another merchant from whom he rented warehouse space. When Thompson found out that William was bankrupt and unlikely to pay him rent, he locked up William’s stock in the warehouse and refused to give it back. The court ruled in favour of Thompson, stating that William could only have his stock back if he bought it from Thompson.

In the 1870s William’s father seems to have completely lost confidence in his ability to manage what was left of the family business. And William’s litany of financial failures, splashed across the newspapers, must have brought shame and embarrassment on the family. When David died in December 1874, his will divided his estate between his three other sons, and William did not receive a similar lump sum. Instead, he was to be given some money in instalments – provided he was not bankrupt.

With the death of his wife, Jane, in 1875, and now also struggling against the decline in cotton and wool trades, William recklessly invested whatever money he could get his hands on into all kinds of new ventures, including brewing which all seem to fail.

By 1881, he is a ‘retired cloth manufacturer’ living with his four sons all under the age of 16. In the 1890s 59 year old William married Ellinor Green, a farmer’s daughter 34 years his junior and the couple moved away to the Isle of Man to start a new life together – or perhaps to escape his creditors. Over the next few years, they had several more children, but in 1906 William died suddenly aged 69. The story of the Yewdalls is very much of downward social mobility under William.

1871 – 1901 The Ellis's return

According to directories of the time, by 1867 the Rev. Dillingham William Seppings, curate, was living at Waterloo Lodge. He had taken Holy Orders and moved from Norfolk to Bramley in 1866. However, by the time of the 1871 census Ellen and Henry Ellis were back in residence.

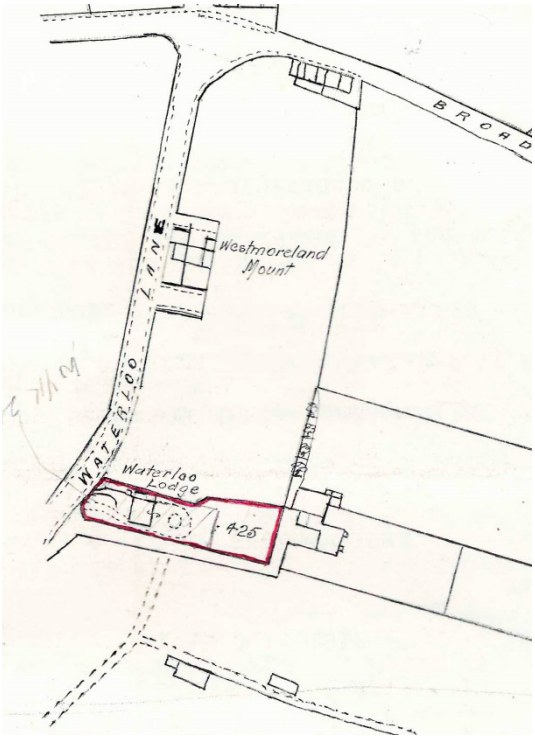
At some point during their occupation of Waterloo Lodge, the Ellis's made considerable changes to the house. In effect they Victorianised a Georgian house. They changed the windows from the smaller panes to the style that exists today, they installed an attractive mosaic floor in the hall, created an ornate frieze in the dining room and, somewhat bizarrely, because they wanted to have a Victorian back door but could not do so because of the huge Georgian hinges, they bolted a Victorian door on to the original Georgian example, in effect creating a "sandwich"! All this was all done quite tastefully but in fact it spoiled the architectural integrity of the house.

Tiled hall floor

Inside – Georgian door

Outside - Victorian door

We also know (from a later auction listing) that Ellen filled the house with expensive and fashionable furniture, including 'a pianoforte in walnut', a mahogany chiffonier, card tables, iron bedsteads, fender, brasses, etc. etc.



Originally, at the time the mills and the house were being built the Haleys owned all the land down to Broad Lane and across to Lincroft House but later, as the different owners got into financial difficulties, plots of land were sold off, the last parcel being sold in the 1970s for the modern bungalow on Landseer Drive.

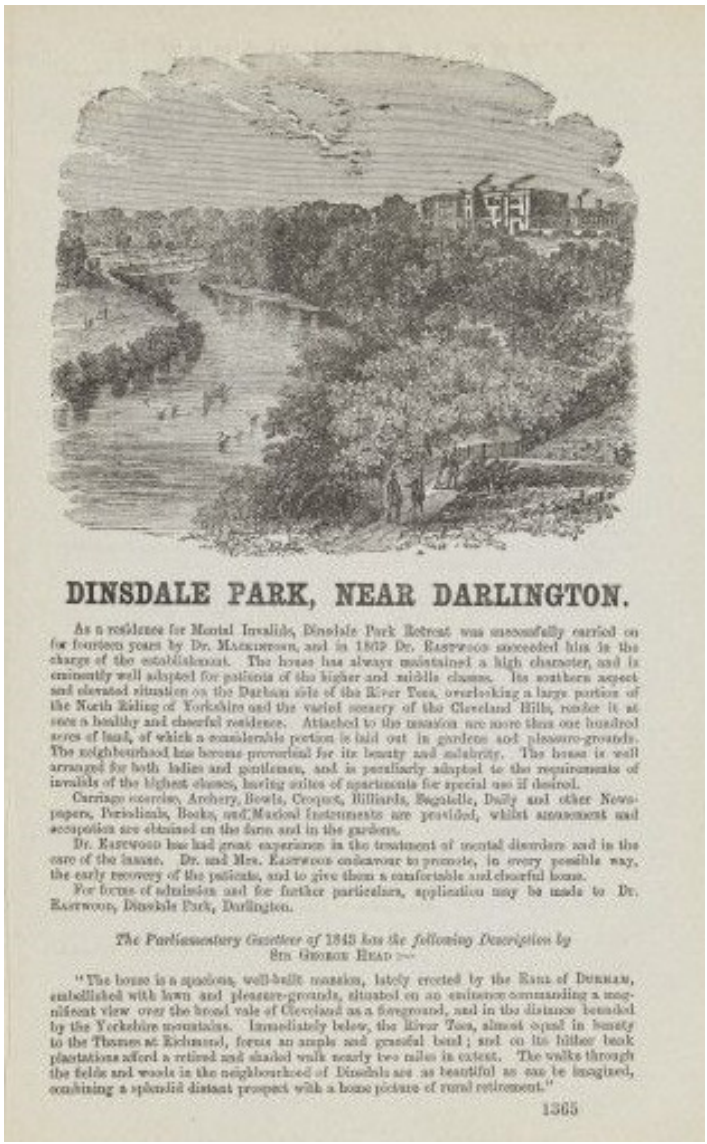
It is also possible that the short terrace, Westmoreland Mount, further down Waterloo Lane, was built as an investment by the Ellis family; certainly Henry twice raised mortgages of £500 - equivalent to £65,000 today - on Waterloo Lodge.

1927 plan showing Waterloo Lodge, with turning circle and land down to Broad Lane. Note the cottages and Westmoreland Mount sold off

Henry must have been apprenticed to a law firm, because by the time of the 1881 census he's qualified as a solicitor, and travels four and a half miles into central Leeds to his office in Albion Street, one of thousands of commuters making their way by foot, omnibus and tram from the suburban homes into the busy heart of the city.

The same year as the census, Ellen died, with Henry by her side. From her death certificate it is clear that she was partially paralysed, so the last months and years must have been difficult for all the family as her health worsened.

Now Henry, still just 30, was alone in the huge rooms of Waterloo Lodge, so it's perhaps not surprising that by 1891, another person has joined the household – Martha Genn, his aunt.



DINSDALE PARK, NEAR DARLINGTON.

As a residence for Mental Invalids, Dinsdale Park Retreat was successfully carried on for fourteen years by Dr. Maxwerson, and in 1869 Dr. Eastwood succeeded him in the charge of the establishment. The house has always maintained a high character, and is eminently well adapted for patients of the higher and middle classes. Its southern aspect and elevated situation on the Durham side of the River Tees, overlooking a large portion of the North Riding of Yorkshire and the varied scenery of the Cleveland Hills, render it at once a healthy and cheerful residence. Attached to the mansion are more than one hundred acres of land, of which a considerable portion is laid out in gardens and pleasure-grounds. The neighbourhood has become proverbial for its beauty and salubrity. The house is well arranged for both ladies and gentlemen, and is peculiarly adapted to the requirements of invalids of the highest classes, having suites of apartments for special use if desired.

Carriage exercise, Archery, Bowls, Croquet, Billiards, Bagatelle, Daily and other Newspapers, Periodicals, Books, and Musical Instruments are provided, whilst amusement and occupation are obtained on the farm and in the gardens.

Dr. Eastwood has had great experience in the treatment of mental disorders and in the care of the insane. Dr. and Mrs. Eastwood endeavour to promote, in every possible way, the early recovery of the patients, and to give them a comfortable and cheerful home.

For forms of admission and for further particulars, application may be made to Dr. Eastwood, Dinsdale Park, Darlington.

The Parliamentary Gazetteer of 1845 has the following Description by SIR GEORGE HEAD :—

"The house is a spacious, well-built mansion, lately erected by the EARL of DURHAM, embellished with lawn and pleasure-grounds, situated on an eminence commanding a magnificent view over the broad vale of Cleveland as a foreground, and in the distance bounded by the Yorkshire mountains. Immediately below, the River Tees, almost equal in beauty to the Thames at Richmond, forms an ample and graceful bend; and on its hither bank plantations afford a retired and shaded walk nearly two miles in extent. The walks through the fields and woods in the neighbourhood of Dinsdale are as beautiful as can be imagined, combining a splendid distant prospect with a home picture of rural retirement."

1365

What went on during the next few years is impossible to know, but it seems that Henry's health went into decline. Henry, sadly, was admitted to the Dinsdale Park Private Asylum in Darlington in 1898 and remained there until his death from a stroke in August 1916.

Dinsdale was a very different type of establishment from the local West Riding Asylum, where 'pauper lunatics' were housed. Dinsdale Park was built as a spa hotel, and later became an asylum. A brochure (left) from a few years earlier describes it as a 'healthy and cheerful residence' for the 'higher and middle classes' who are 'quiet and harmless'. It had extensive grounds, and offered 'carriage exercise, archery, bowls, croquet, billiards' and numerous indoor activities.

Martha lived on at Waterloo Lodge and died in 1899, aged 73. The house was thereafter rented out until after Henry's death.

1901 – Robert Robinson

By 1901, the new tenant was one with a connection to the thriving railway industry. Robert Robinson had worked his way up from humble clerk to being a rail traffic manager for the Great Northern Railway, and retired to Waterloo Lodge with his wife and three children, having previously supervised the line at Headingley.

Robert had spent most of his life living in the city and working on the railways, but his background was very different. He was born on the village of Melsonby in North Yorkshire. His father and older brother Thomas were both agricultural labourers on a local farm. Although these were good days for farming, Robert did not choose to follow in his family's footsteps and decided to try his luck in the city. He was amongst thousands of young people leaving the countryside in the mid nineteenth century, looking for work opportunities in Britain's growing towns and cities.

Robert moved to Bradford, where he found lodgings and a job as a railway clerk for the Great Northern Railway. As the GNR expanded, Robert Robinson worked his way up the career ladder, becoming a superintendent of railway goods traffic. In 1865 he married Helen Adela Warren, a solicitor's daughter from Suffolk, so Robert would certainly have been 'marrying up'. The couple go on to have three children – Adela, Ellis and Florence, and Robert was promoted once more, becoming a divisional manager for the GNR.

Robert's upward journey from agricultural labour to railway management certainly set his family up in style. His children went into white-collar jobs, including his daughter Adela, who owned her own house and earned her own income as a 'Tracer of Engineers' Plans'.

However, their tenure of Waterloo Lodge did not last long. Sadly Robert died in 1903 and Helen in 1905, leaving the house vacant and available for rent once more.

1905 – the Irwins

Late 1905 sees the arrival of the Irwins, a young couple called Edith and Thomas. Both have mining connections, Edith's father is a colliery owner in Hawarden, Flintshire, and Thomas is a consultant engineer involved in mining interests in the UK and Bulgaria. They have a 3-year-old son called (John) Myles. Once they're settled into their new home, another child, Hugo, is born in 1908.

The early 1910s see Thomas frequently away on business in London. He presides over the liquidation of an Anglo-Bulgarian oil syndicate in 1913, and he patents two pieces of engineering equipment. He appears to flit between hotels, clubs and offices while Edith is left at home to look after her two young children.

The family left Waterloo Lodge around 1911 for Kent. It isn't clear why, but may well be because Thomas's business took them elsewhere. Thomas and Edith eventually retired to Sussex where he died in 1947 and Edith in 1952.

Tracing Hugo and Myles's careers, we find that neither one stays in Britain. Myles Irwin goes to work for the mining company, Osborne & Chappel, which takes him to the Federated Malay States. Myles's engineering ideas are instrumental in expanding the company's operations during the 'tin rush' of the 20s and 30s. But Myles dies suddenly at the age of 28 in Perak, Malaysia.

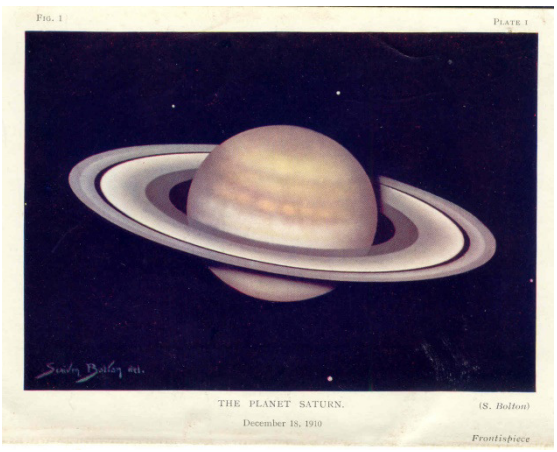
Meanwhile his younger brother Hugo goes to work for an oil firm, which takes him to India. It was a time when the Indian Home Rule campaign was in full swing, and the British grip on power was loosening. During this period Hugo was unseated from the Bombay council by recently-elected Indian politicians who since 1935 had controlled the country's internal affairs.

Hugo was a trained pilot, who in WW2 helped train a new parachute regiment and is involved in the plans for the defence of India when the Japanese threatened to overrun the country in 1943. Newspaper cuttings reveal that Hugo married a young Indian woman, Boruna Dutt, and brought her back to Britain in February 1947. However, on the eve of Partition in August 1947, they both left England bound for Bombay. The marriage did not last and was dissolved soon after their arrival in India. For Hugo, the shame of the failed marriage meant that he left his company and India and returned to the UK. In 1952 he marries Phyllis Snape. Hugo died in 1991, in Devon.

1911 – 1951 – the Boltons

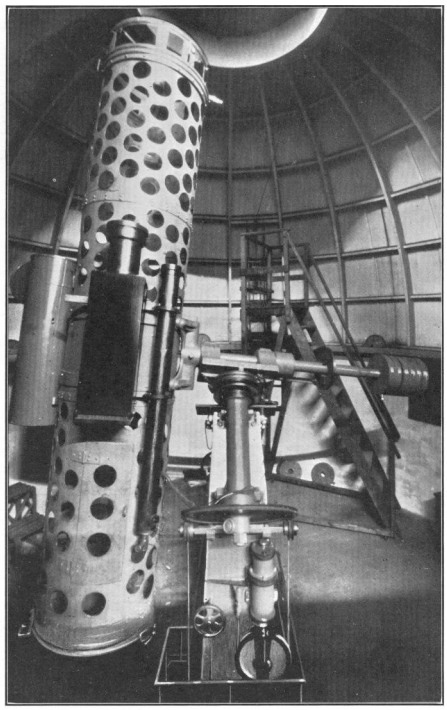
From 1911 the new tenants were the Bolton family: Simeon, his wife Hannah, and their children Ida, Scriven and Marianne. Simeon, a commercial traveller, died in 1916, but the house remained in the family until the 1950s.

Thomas Simeon Scriven Bolton (1888-1929), the middle child, earned his living as an oil merchant, but was also a distinguished amateur astronomer who contributed original research to specialist journals and received medals and diplomas from distinguished international exhibitions. His findings were frequently published by the Royal Astronomical Society and his technical drawings and depictions of the night sky and astronomical bodies were widely published in the UK, US and France.



The aurora borealis, as seen from Bramley on the night of 5 November 1915

He built a large observatory alongside Waterloo Lodge - on the site of the present 74 Waterloo Lane.



Mr. Scriven Bolton's Observatory at Bramley

He died on Christmas Day 1929 during an influenza epidemic that swept through Leeds, aged just 42. This outbreak killed far more people in the city than the more famous Spanish flu - over 600 people died in just one week. His obituaries appeared in the local papers as well as the scientific journals to which he contributed. His telescope was bequeathed to Leeds University after his death - the University eventually sold the primary mirror off in the 1970s – and there is an annual lecture at the University in his memory.

Change of ownership

In 1916, with the death of Henry Westmoreland Ellis, the land and Waterloo Lodge (and probate) was passed to Mary Sophia Newell, who was Henry's cousin. She sold off one of the cottages on Broad Lane in 1925, but retained ownership of the house and the rest of the land until 1927 when both were sold to Hannah Bolton. This is when the first plan appears in the deeds (see page 8).

Hannah and Scriven's sisters Ida and Marie continued to live in Waterloo Lodge. In 1939, Hannah died, followed by Marie in 1945. The last of the three siblings, Ida, lived on for another 6 years, until she died in 1951, and the house changed hands once again.

As for the mills, the progressive firm of J T and J Taylor of Batley took them over in 1914. Taylors were the pioneers of worker involvement and profit sharing. They ran the mills until 1925 at which point their use for the woollen trade ceased and for

some time a firm making and selling cold meats was based there as were firms of dry cleaners. Later it became a home for a number of small businesses until the mills were demolished around 1960.

1950s

The Dawson family bought the house in 1951. Arnold, a gas engineer, and his wife Margaret had four children.

They sold in 1956 and emigrated to New Zealand in 1960, from where these photos (and others) came.

In 1956 Dr Terence Stinton Marshall bought the house. He was the director of the blood transfusion centre in Leeds and when he and his wife divorced ownership passed, in 1966, to his wife, Gladys (known as Sue) Yockney.

Sue brought up their three sons in the house and also had lodgers – latterly from the then newly created Opera North. She sold off the bottom part of the garden (the orchard) to Trevor Sheldon in 1976 for his bungalow, and a further piece to him in 1981.

Finally

In October 1981 Sue sold the house to us and moved south to be near one of her sons. Sadly she died in 1987.

Over the years we have improved the house in a number of ways, always seeking to respect, and even, restore, its integrity.

2020 post building work